BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

BC STATS

Service BC
Ministry of Labour & Citizens' Services

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca

Issue: 07-19

May 11th, 2007

- **Unemployment rate rises to 4.4% as economy sheds 16,300 jobs**
- **Exports up 4.0% in March, posting first increase since December**
- **Housing starts slow in April**

Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate increased half a percentage point to 4.4% (*seasonally adjusted*) in April as employment in the province shrank (-0.7%) for the first time since November.** The job losses were concentrated in the service sector (-1.1%), with the biggest declines seen in education (-2.6%), finance, insurance & real estate (-2.7%), health care (-2.8%) and accommodation & food services (-3.5%).

  In the goods sector, employment was up 0.5% as construction (+1.6%), utilities (+6.1%) and forestry, fishing & mining (+8.6%) were all hiring workers. However, manufacturing employed 1.6% fewer people than in March.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Women (-1.4%) felt the effects of April's job losses more than men (-0.2%).** Public sector employment was down 1.2%, while private sector employment slipped 0.6%, and the ranks of the self-employed fell back 0.8%. The number of part-time jobs in the province shrank 3.6% but full-time employment was unchanged from March. The unemployment rate for young workers (aged 15 to 25) rose 0.3 percentage points, to 7.6%, while the jobless rate for workers aged 25 and over jumped from 3.2% to 3.8%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Among the regions, unemployment rates ranged from 3.7% (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*) in Northeast[1] to 8.6% in North Coast/Nechako.** Kootenay (5.7%) had the second-highest unemployment rate in the province. In Cariboo, the rate was 5.2%, while Vancouver Island/Coast (5.3%) had a marginally higher jobless rate. Thompson/Okanagan's rate was 4.5%. Mainland/Southwest (3.8%) had the second-lowest unemployment rate in the province. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Nationally, both employment and the size of the labour force were unchanged in April, and the Canadian jobless rate remained at 6.1% (*seasonally adjusted*).** Alberta (3.4%) continued to have the lowest unemployment rate in the country, but all four western provinces recorded rates that were below the national average. Rates in other provinces ranged from 6.6% in Ontario to 12.9% in Newfoundland & Labrador. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **Exports of BC products expanded (+4.0%, *seasonally adjusted*) in March, marking the first monthly gain of 2007.** The export growth was bolstered by a jump in the value of forestry (+6.7%) products along with increased exports of industrial & consumer goods (+5.2%). Machinery, equipment & automotive (+2.1%) and agriculture & fishing (+3.8%) exports were also up but international energy shipments inched down (-0.5%). US-bound exports climbed 3.2%, largely due to higher forestry (+6.7%) and industrial (+6.3%) product shipments. Exports to other destinations advanced 5.3%, reflecting upturns across all major commodity groups.

  Canadian exports increased 1.4% in March. Shipments to the US (+1.0%) and Japan (+5.6%) strengthened, while exports to the European Union slipped (-4.0%). An expansion in automotive exports (+7.9%) fuelled the growth, but shipments of forestry products (+7.0%) and industrial goods (+3.1%) were also notably

[1] BC Stats estimate using data supplied by Statistics Canada

Report Immigrant Landings and Inter-Censal Population Change

Did you know...
Over a third (35%) of British Columbians plan to take a trip this summer. Of those, many (35%) plan on vacationing within the province. *Source: Expedia Summer Travel Survey*

higher. Exports of energy (-5.0%) and machinery & equipment (-0.5%) products were down from February levels.

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **Housing starts in BC slowed in April, falling 2.7% *(seasonally adjusted)*.** Canadian starts edged down (-1.0%), reflecting slowdowns in three of the four largest provinces. Starts slipped in BC, Alberta (-4.5%) and Quebec (-5.2%), but were up 7.9% in Ontario.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities increased sharply (+25.5% *seasonally adjusted*) in March, reversing a similar decline in February (-22.0%).** Permits for residential projects were up 41.6%, while permits for other types of buildings increased a more moderate 1.4%. Planned spending on institutional & government projects surged (+68.3%), but permits for commercial (-8.3%) and industrial (-17.7%) projects declined. The value of permits more than doubled in Kelowna (+169.8%) and Victoria (+108.4%) and was also higher in Vancouver (+20.9%), where most building activity occurs. On the other hand, building intentions in Abbotsford (-57.2%) eased.

  Nationally, permits jumped 27.4%, backed by double-digit increases in most provinces including Ontario (+28.3%), Quebec (+29.0%) and Alberta (+29.2%). Manitoba (-19.9%) was the only province to post a slowdown in building permits in March. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **During the first three months of 2007, the value of building permits issued in the province increased 15.8% over the same period of last year.** Investment intentions were robust in most regions, with Kootenay (+28.5%), Vancouver Island/Coast (+27.9%) and Cariboo (+27.2%) standing out in terms of growth. Permits in Mainland/Southwest were 11.2% higher, and rose modestly (+2.7%) in North Coast. Northeast (-3.4%) and Nechako (-28.2%) were the only regions to post declines.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **The cost of new housing in BC's biggest metropolitan area continued to climb in March.** New house prices in Vancouver were 6.8% higher than in the same month last year, reflecting the effect of more expensive housing (+9.7%), as well as higher costs for land (+0.7%). Victoria's New Housing Price Index inched up 0.1% in March, as inflationary pressure from land prices (+4.6%) managed to outweigh declining housing costs (-3.3%). Nationally, the cost of new housing advanced 9.3% during the twelve-month period ending in March. With the exception of Windsor (-1.9%), prices were up in every metropolitan area. Edmonton (+39.8%) posted the largest increase, more than quadruple the Canadian average. After Edmonton, the most inflationary new housing markets were in Calgary (+30.8%) and Saskatoon (+22.7%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Pedestrian Accidents

- **Over a 10-year period, the overall number of hospitalizations due to pedestrian injuries in Canada dropped significantly.** Hospital admissions for pedestrian injuries declined 31% (from 4,516 to 3,117) between 1994 and 2005. Admission rates were down for all age groups, but young people saw the most positive improvement, with a decrease of 51% for all those under the age of 20 and 62% for children under the age of five. Older Canadians suffer the greatest number of pedestrian injuries. In 2004-2005, people aged 60 and over represented 30% of all hospital admissions of this nature–2.5 times their share of the nation's population. Alcohol is also a factor in pedestrian injuries, especially for young men (aged 20 to 39). In the same year, one third of adult pedestrians who were tested for blood alcohol level while hospitalized for severe injuries were under the influence of alcohol. Among those, 82% were young men. November (12%) saw the highest proportion of pedestrian injuries in 2004-2005 while the fewest occurred in April (6%). Weekday traffic appears to be more dangerous with most pedestrian injuries occurring between 11:00am and 3:00pm on a weekday.

  Data Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information

Infoline *Issue: 07-19*
May 11th, 2007

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

Issue: 07-19
May 11, 2007

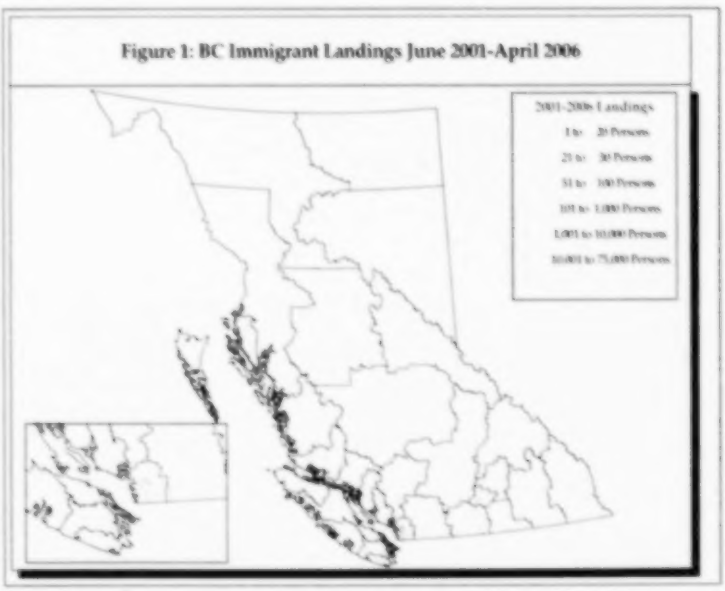
Contact: Sarah Harrower (250) 387-0334
Originally published in *Migration Highlights* Issue 06-4

BC's Immigrant Landings and Inter-Censal Population Change

Population and dwelling counts from Statistics Canada's *2006 Census of Canada* were recently released for British Columbia. Over the May 15th, 2001 to May 16th, 2006 period the population of British Columbia grew by 205,749 people. As stated in Statistics Canada's *Portrait of the Canadian Population 2006, 2006 Census* (Cat # 97-550-XIE 2007), as a result of British Columbia's low fertility rate, "international immigration remains the principal factor in the province's population growth..."

The 2006 Census of Canada information on Immigration and Citizenship for British Columbia is not scheduled to be released until December 4th, 2007. However, information from immigration files held by Citizenship and Immigration Canada can provide us with some initial indications of the characteristics of population change between 2001 and 2006. This landing dataset lists the intended destination of immigrants to Canada. It does not however, capture any additional moves that new immigrants may make from this place of "intended destination" to their place of permanent settlement within Canada. Therefore, the Census provides information on exactly where new residents decided to live once arriving in Canada, while landings data can only describe where new immigrants intended to settle. Despite this difference, the distribution of new immigrants across place of "intended" settlement and distribution across place of residence at census time have had similar patterns over previous inter-censal periods. This special feature article compares landings information to immigrant data from the 2001 Census and current population data from the 2006 Census of Canada.

Figure 1: BC Immigrant Landings June 2001-April 2006



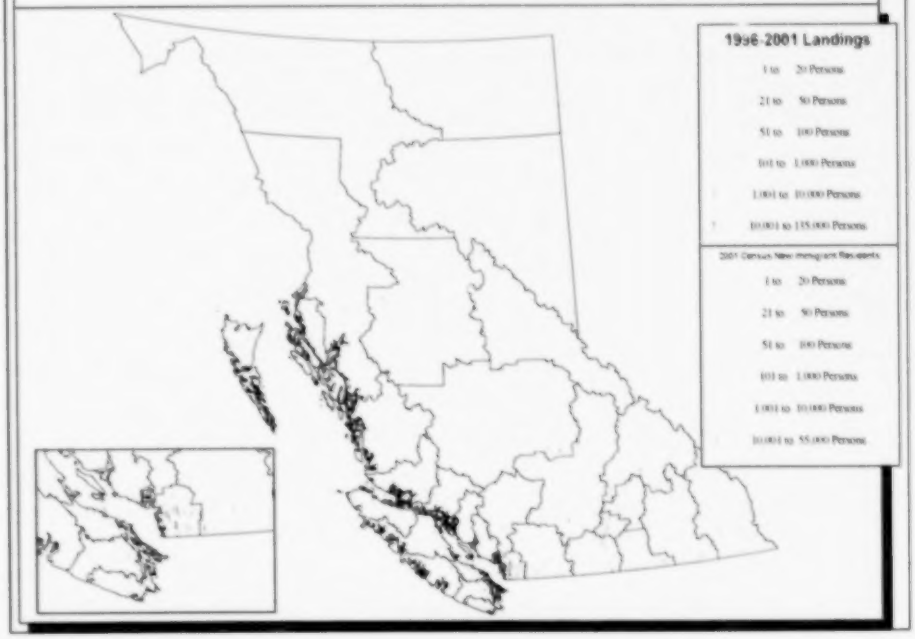
BC Stats, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9V1
Tel: (250) 387-0327 Fax: (250) 387-0329 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca

Figure 1 presents a map of the "intended destination" of British Columbia's immigrant population that landed between June 2001 and April 2006. The vast majority of immigrants that arrived into British Columbia over this period listed the Greater Vancouver area as their intended place of settlement. A significant number also chose to locate within the Okanagan Valley, Fraser Valley and South Vancouver Island areas.

This 2001 to 2006 pattern of intended destinations is not substantially different from the pattern of 1996 to 2001. Figure 2 presents a map of the "intended destination" of B.C.'s immigrant population that arrived between June 1996 and April 2001 and, from the *2001 Census of Canada*, the actual location of immigrants that had arrived over the same period. The pattern of "intended destination" is generally consistent with the pattern of settlement from the 2001 Census.

Figure 2: BC Distribution of New Immigrant Landings and Residents (1996-2001)

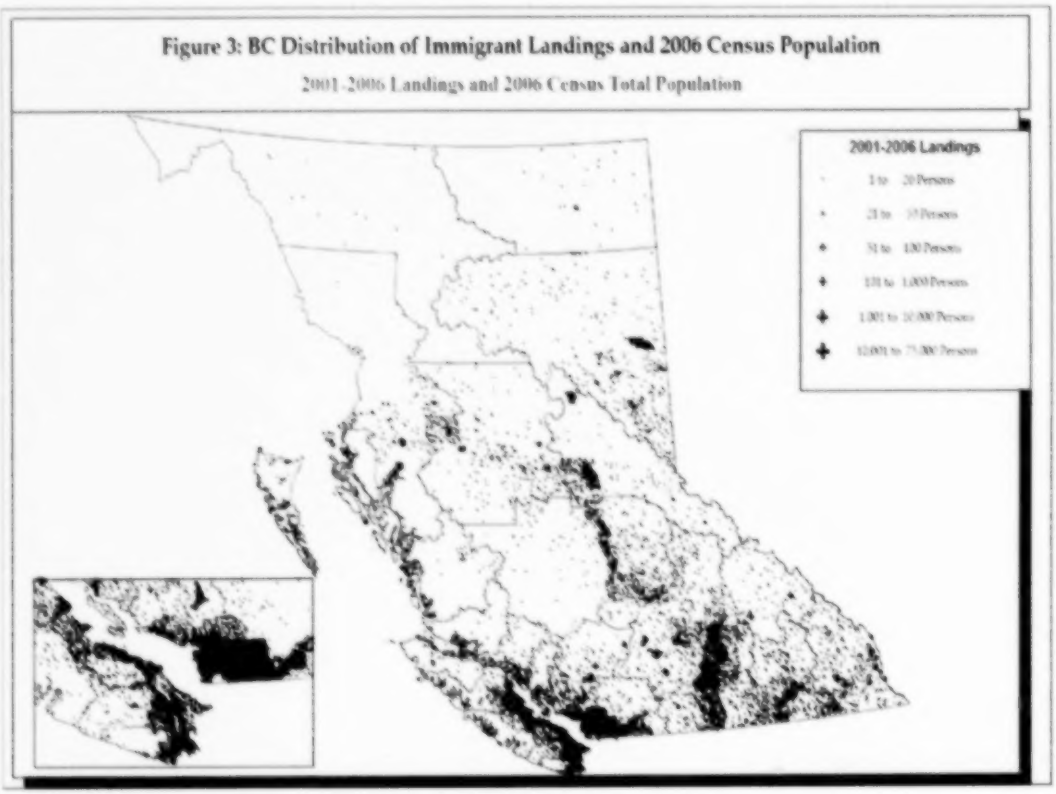
1996-2001 Landings and 2001 Census Residents (Immigrated 1996-2001)



Finally, using the *2006 Census of Canada* population data for British Columbia and the "intended destination" data for immigrants that landed between 2001 and 2006, two further patterns can be noted. First, as expected, immigrants are more likely to "intend" to settle within densely populated areas of British Columbia. "Intended destinations" are mapped against British Columbia's 2006 Census population count in Figure 3[1].

Figure 3: BC Distribution of Immigrant Landings and 2006 Census Population

2001-2006 Landings and 2006 Census Total Population

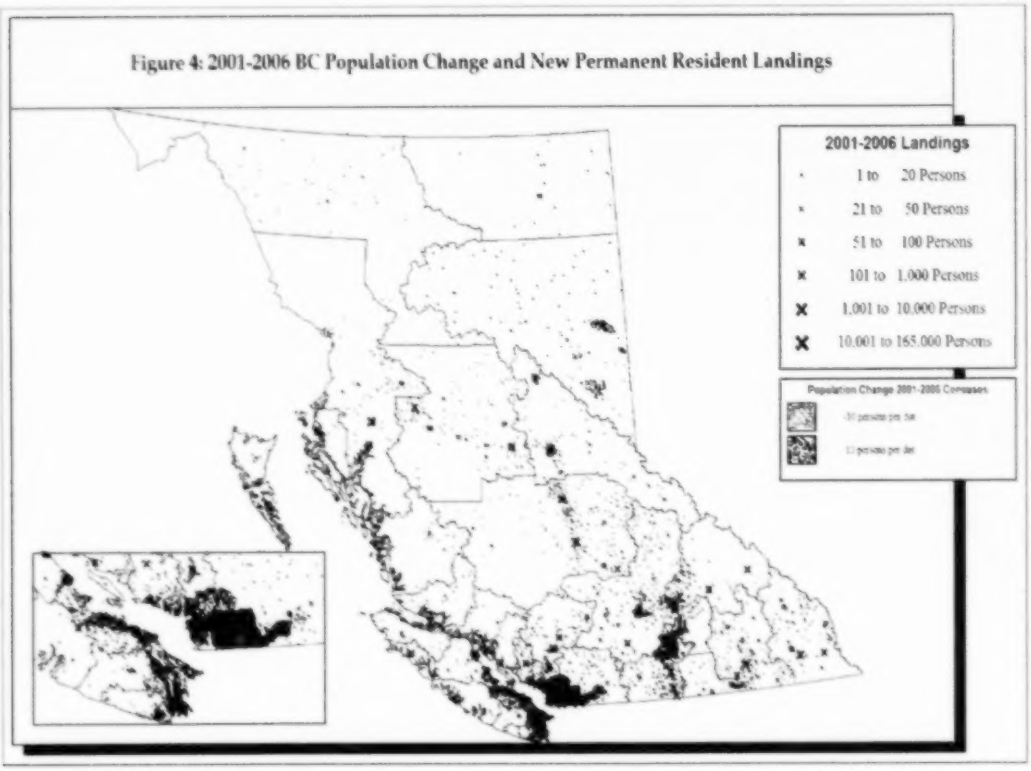


[1] Each dot represents 50 individuals.

Second, the areas immigrants listed as their "intended destination" within British Columbia include areas that experienced positive, and areas that experienced negative overall population growth between the 2001 Census and 2006 Census.

Figure 4 maps the immigrants' "intended destination" against the change in population seen between the 2001 and 2006 Census[2]. This hints at the complexity of patterns of migration within British Columbia, a complexity that the December release of the Immigration and Migration data from the *2006 Census* will allow us to explore.

Figure 4: 2001-2006 BC Population Change and New Permanent Resident Landings



[2] Each red dot indicates a loss of 10 individuals from the population at the census subdivision area, while each blue dot represents a gain of approximately 10 individuals.

Infoline

May 11, 2007
Issue 07-19

fax transmission information service from **BC STATS**

Email transmission information service from **BC STATS**

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/07	% change on one year ago
BC	4,338.1	1.3
Canada	32,777.3	1.0
GDP and INCOME (Released Apr 25)		
(BC - at market prices)	2006	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	179,701	6.4
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	150,741	3.6
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	34,971	2.3
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	21,984	4.8
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Feb	3,424	-1.4
Merchandise Exports - Mar	2,824	4.0
Retail Sales - Feb	4,551	0.4
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Mar 2007)		
BC	2.2	1.9
Vancouver	2.5	2.2
Victoria	1.9	1.6
Canada	2.3	1.9
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Apr '07	prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,354	-0.1
Employed - BC	2,249	-0.7
Unemployed - BC	105	13.9
		Mar '07
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	4.4	3.9
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.1	6.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)	May 9/07	May 10/06
Prime Business Rate	6.00	5.75
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	6.60	6.25
- 5 year	6.64	6.75
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	May 9/07	May 10/06
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.1064	1.1007
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.9046	0.9095
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Apr '07	one year ago
BC	748.06	3.8
Canada	740.73	2.3

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Socio-Economic Profiles & Indices

The 2006 edition of these widely monitored reports provide the most complete and up-to-date basis for measuring and comparing the social and economic dimensions of regions in the province. Released April 4.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/index.asp

High Technology Sector - 2006

The high technology sector is a growing part of British Columbia's diverse economy, offering the prospect of strong economic growth in the years to come as well as a local source of technology inputs to the province's resource-based industries.

Our latest *Profile* and *Input Indicators* reports are now available.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/hi_tech.asp

Manufacturers' Directory 2007

Over 600 pages

Sources, leads, opportunity – whatever you make of it – the 2007 Directory is packed full of current information on more than 4,800 firms operating in British Columbia.

$45 plus taxes. Order now.

Tel: (250) 387-0359

FAX: (250) 387-0380

Searchable on-line at www.made-in-bc.ca

2007 British Columbia Manufacturers' Directory

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/pr_bcmd.asp

Released this week by BC STATS

- Exports, March 2007
- Labour Force Statistics, April 2007

Next week

- Earnings & Employment Trends, April 2007
- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 1st Quarter 2007
- Consumer Price Index, April 2007

BC STATS, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1

Tel: (250) 387-0327 Fax: (250) 387-0329 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca